

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are all the claims pending in the application.

I. Foreign Priority

Applicants note that the present application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. 119. The Examiner, however, has not acknowledged the claim for priority or acknowledged receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents. Accordingly, Applicants kindly request that the Examiner acknowledge the claim for foreign priority and confirm that the certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

II. Information Disclosure Statements

Applicants note that the Examiner has not returned the PTO-1449 forms submitted with the Information Disclosure Statements filed on February 28, 2002 and May 24, 2002. Applicants kindly request that the Examiner consider the references listed on the above-noted PTO-1449 forms and return the initialed and signed forms with the next Office paper.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 8 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. In particular, the Examiner asserts that the phrase “in a form which is not recognizable as a key” imposes no further limitation on the invention.

Without acquiescing to the Examiner’s position, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants note that the above-noted phrase has been removed from claims 1 and 8, and has been

replaced with the phrase --in a storage circuit within integrated circuitry--. Similarly, regarding claims 2 and 9, Applicants note that the phrase “in a form which is not recognizable as a key” has been removed, and has been replaced with the phrase --in the storage circuit within the integrated circuitry--.

Regarding claim 19, Applicants note that claim 19 does not include the phrase “which is not recognizable as a key”, and therefore, it appears as though the Examiner inadvertently rejected claim 19 rather than claim 9.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the above-noted rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 4-7 and 10-18 are allowed, and that claims 3 and 9 contain allowable subject matter.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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